of masons and bricklayers to obtain 4s. 6d. a day, and to leave work at 4 o'clock on Saturdays, took place at Sunderland on the 1st of March, and was shortly afterwards announced by advertisement on behalf of the workmen. ——The demands of the operative masons on the Kendal and Windermere Railway have been conceded, the state of the works urgently requiring a cessation of the strike. The navigators on the same line, too, struck work for 3d. a day additional wages, but failed, and many of them were dispensed with altogether. —— It was stated by Mr. Labouchere, the other day, in the Commons, that the number of able-bodied men employed on the Irish relief works, chiefly unproductive, and at least not reproductive, has increased to 668,000. ——Government is said to have given orders to build a new model prison, near Dublin, for the reception of Irish convicts. It is to be constructed on the plan of the new Pentonville prison, and is to have 500 cells for the reception of prisoners.

SUPPLY OF WATER TO EXTINGUISH FIRES.

Hose and jet-pipes fixed upon the pipes laid for the supply of water, being under experiment at Liverpool for extinguishing fire, communication of the fact that a similar system has been in successful use, in her Majesty's dockyard at Portsmouth, for between forty and fifty years, may serve to confirm the ideas entertained of advantages derivable from the supposed innovation.

Very early after Brigadier-General Sir Samuel Bentham had been appointed Inspector-General of Naval Works, he contemplated the introduction into the Royal dockyards of efficient apparatus for better securing them against the ravages of fire, and, December, 1797, proposed to the Admiralty the erection of a steam-engine in Portsmouth dockyard, and in connection with it, a system of pipes and other works for the distribution of water and the extinction of fire, which works were accordingly executed. The following abstracted account of them was furnished to their lordships.

Water-Works and Fire-Extinguishing-Apparatus.—"This apparatus, as exemplified at Portsmouth, consists of an elevated reservoir, into which the water from the above-mentioned well is raised during meal hours and in the evening, by either of two steam-engines in daily use in the wood mills. From this reservoir the water is distributed throughout the dock-yard, by a system of pipes passing by all the principal buildings, and by the sides of the docks and the jetties; upon these pipes, at intervals of from about 50 to 200 feet, means are provided for speedily affixing fire-hose, and branch pipes; and the system of pipes is so arranged, as that water flows through them to any given point by two different courses, so that though there should happen any temporary interruption, by sudden bursting of a pipe, or other derangement, in one course, the supply of water at any point would be effected by the other course. In addition to this supply, always ready to be instantaneously applied to the extinguishing fire in any part of the dock yard, and with a force sufficient to throw water into the first floors of buildings, means are provided of raising by either one of the above-mentioned steam engines, either fresh water from the well, or an immense supply of sea water, and of *forcing* this water, fresh or salt, in cases of fire, *into* and *over* all the principal store-houses and buildings, as well as over the ships themselves lying within, or contiguous to the limits of the dock yard."

"Apparatus to the same effect are introducing into most of the other dockyards."

To this account should be added, that in the wood mills, where the materials used, and the refuse from the works are so inflammable, Sir Samuel caused pipes, with suitable hose and jets, to be introduced into every floor, so as to have means on the spot of throwing water to any part of the room where fire might appear, a provision applicable not only to workshops, but, with suitable modifications, equally so to museums, libraries, picture galleries, indeed, it may be said even to private habitations.

Examples have not been wanting of the efficacy of those arrangements in the royal dockyards, as in the instance of a threatening fire, but soon extinguished, in the metal mills at Portsmouth, and in the year 1811 in the ropery at Plymouth, where the conflagration was arrested by them, although the works were yet only very partially executed.

Sir Samuel Bentham, after the abolition of his office, was for some years absent from this country. On his return, several appalling conflagrations in the metropolis drew his attention to the means the water already laid on afforded for extinguishing fire; and he drew up, February, 1830, a paper, in which were detailed some modifications of his above-mentioned arrangements, so as to suit them to the existing water-works in London and Westminster. This paper was intended for Sir Robert Peel; but it appearing that the public mind was not at that time ripe for the adoption of any such general measure, the project was communicated only to friends; however, early in the year 1844 it was submitted to the consideration of the Earl of Lincoln.

Neither the notoriety of the works for extinguishing fire in the royal dockyards, nor the particulars afforded in that paper, have as yet induced either ministers, the insurance companies, or any private engineer to apply the same principles to the metropolis. It may be hoped the example afforded at Liverpool will have better success. M. S. B.

ARCHITECTURAL SCHOOL OF DESIGN.

A general meeting of the Association of Architectural Draughtsmen was held on the 3rd inst., at their rooms, 33, Southampton-street, for the purpose of embodying the "School of Design" in connection with their association. The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, to explain to the visitors the part the society intended to take in assisting to carry out such a scheme. First, by the immediate reduction of their annual subscription and entrance-fee to one-half. Secondly, the abolition of all fines. Thirdly, to make all drawings to the portfolio optional. And, lastly, to form classes among the members for the more perfect study of design.

A long discussion ensued relative to the best mode of carrying out the "School of Design," some gentlemen present refusing to co-operate with the association until the working of the schools should be more definitely fixed. It was explained that the object was (in accordance with a paper by Mr. Kerr), to form a society upon an enlarged scale, with a comparatively trifling subscription, that might induce every student of the art to avail himself of its privileges; this purpose, it was thought, had been fully carried out by the amended rules, as read before them that evening, and that it now only remained for the profession generally to carry the scheme fully into operation, by becoming members of the association, and placing the working of the schools in some definite form. Several gentlemen then offered themselves for election, and a sub-committee of the association was appointed, consisting of five members, to meet a deputation of the newly-proposed members, to arrange at once upon the actual working of the new schools.

ART IN ROME.

Amongst the greater works now ready, is a splendid classic marble group by the sculptor Mr. Emil Wolff, for the Armoury-bridge (*Zeughausbrücke*) of Berlin. Victory pointing out to an adolescent the deeds of brave country-defenders, and spurring him to similar acts. The artist has embodied the whole of the thought, by inscribing the names of worthy warriors on a shield, which the goddess shews to her favourite. The execution has been well calculated for the broad daylight, in which the work is to be placed in the Prussian capital—the artist well *knowing* that, in that case, the contour will dwindle and shrink, if not boldly and grandly laid out.— Another huge work is Perseus, by Mr. Froschel, ordered by Princess Charlotte of Prussia for her Villa Sommarina, at Rome.

The senior of German—nay, European painters, Mr. Reinhard, 85 years old, has surprised the world by the exhibition of a painting, just completed, being an allegory of the discovery of the Corinthian capital. It is by such episodes and allegories, that Mr. R. contrives to impart great interest to his landscapes. By the aid of the present episode we know at once that we are at Corinth, that scene of so much human greatness and illustration; a scenery viewed quite differently from those common-place localities, beauteous, howbeit, in other respects, passed over indifferently by human steps. Mr. Reinhard, well knowing what lesson he thereby gives to his younger followers (*festina lente*), has inscribed his age in a corner of this picture.

EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS AND INFORMATION BENEFICIAL TO ART.*

Men, in whatever station, who shrink from intellectual communication, have seldom much to contribute. Jealousy originates in ignorance, and in the pre-supposition of complete wisdom being already possessed; not considering that knowledge has the power of boundless self-extension—each accession discovering but a new series of unattained and beautiful developments. The inducing free expression of individual opinion, whether upon the history and progress of manufactures, mechanical ingenuity, or the ornamental taste displayed, must materially tend to promote useful and intelligent inquiry, and bring out knowledge that has long been without opportunity of encouragement, and lying dormant. There cannot be a doubt but that the deficiency of opportunities for exchanging information and observation, has retarded the individual and public advancement of a true feeling for the beautiful. When rightly pursued, the resources of art are inexhaustible; becoming more prolific as they are better understood: render art popular, and the demand for embellishment increases—simply because it then arises from a whole people, and not a limited few.

The mighty difference between the state of industrial art in this country and upon the continent, proceeds from our viewing it apart from education, and as a mere matter of mercantile traffic, whereby to make money; whereas one great purpose of art is to improve and delight the understanding—through the eye to exalt the mind, and extend the joys of refined acquirements to every rank of life. Thus we find continental nations cultivating an acquaintance with art for the enjoyment it is known to diffuse; each town possessing its humble museum and gallery of sculpture, whose visitors are its artisans. All are sensible that the more intelligent of our own workmen are acquiring an improved taste; and, at an early day, may hope they will discover, that, instead of a line of demarcation existing between the practice of the industrial arts and those recognised as high art, an indissoluble bond connects them conjointly to prosperity. The superb remains of Grecian art, and in later days, of Italian, testify to the full appreciation of this truth. Their people grew up surrounded by creations of the most sublime nature; they became imbued—self-educated, in the contemplation of the beautiful; and being familiar with productions of the most refined taste, they unconsciously extended the feeling over all the ordinary requirements of life.

Rules and instructions may be laid down for the production of agreeable form and systematic colouring: but as a matter of ordinary occurrence, the greater or lesser success must depend upon the individual experience, capability, or genius, in applying the unerring principles of fine art to the ever-varying circumstances of industrial art. Extended research and observation will enable the mind so to adapt embellishment to the circumstances of varied locality or material, that plagiarism and mannerism will yield place to elegant diversity.

The grand treatment of line, and the masterly combination of style and effect exhibited upon much cabinet work of the olden time, prove, in conjunction with the products of the

* From an address to the Decorative Art Society by Mr. Crabb, accompanying abstracts of the transactions from January 1844 to January 1846. This society was formed in the autumn of 1843, by a few persons connected with cabinet and decorative work, for the purpose of promoting beneficial inquiries, classifying information, obtaining catalogued lists of the dates, styles, and best engraved examples of the most distinguished authorities upon applied decorations—either architectural, or as useful to manufacturing art. They have pursued their object very ably (especially when the limited time at the disposal of the members is remembered), and will, we trust, continue to do so. An accession of active members is sought for.

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